

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
 March 28, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Counties	Survey		Diagnostics	
	Number of Traps	Number of Positive Traps	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive
Alameda	1,104	28	0	33
Contra Costa	1,210	8	0	8
San Francisco	45	5	0	16
Marin	57	3	3	0
Total to Date	2,416	44	3	57

- **Survey**
 - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California. In addition, trap deployment began in the surrounding San Francisco County's Bay Area and Southern California.
 - 2,416 traps have been deployed within a 30-mile radius of the initial LBAM detection. Traps are being inspected weekly.
- **Identification and Diagnostics**
 - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture's (CDFA) Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. All LBAM "presumptive positive" moths from each county are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, for confirmation. In counties where previous specimens have been confirmed by SEL, subsequent captures are identified by CDFA.
 - Fifty-seven (57) moths have been confirmed as LBAM from traps in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco counties. Three (3) moths from Marin County are currently designated as presumptive positive.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend LBAM survey methods, mitigation tools, and eradication strategies. This includes a number of environmentally friendly options – such as mating disruption with pheromone – that have been used elsewhere against LBAM infestations.
- **Incident Command**
Thirty-four (34) personnel are on-site (30-CDFA; 4-APHIS) and assuming various roles within the ICS structure.
- **Regulatory Actions**
A regulatory strategy is being developed.
- **Treatment**
CDFA and APHIS are examining treatment options with the LBAM Technical Working Group. CDFA is researching registration needs for biopesticides.

Trade:

- Many countries such as Chile, South Korea, Peru, and South Africa list LBAM as a Quarantine Pest and may require certification attesting pest freedom for commodities such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus, cherries, and stone fruits.
- Mexico and Canada may also require some type of certification.

Communication and Outreach:

- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007, announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.
- USDA-APHIS sent a letter to all SPROs on March 22, 2007, informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.
- The National Plant Board and APHIS sponsored a tele-conference earlier today to inform States of the LBAM situation in California.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen near Berkeley in Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, DC, confirmed that the two samples submitted were positive, and validated the results using morphological testing.
- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although it was reported in Hawaii in the late 1800s, the LBAM find in California is the first on the US mainland.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pip fruit (apples and pears), grapes, and citrus.